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KLIV 1590AM RADIO COMMENTARY

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON WITH REPRESENTATIVE TOM CAMPBELL

This week's topic (week of 5/19/97): The Religious Freedom Amendment

(Maximum time allotted: 1min. 15sec.)

--188 Words--

Last week, I, along with over one hundred Republican and Democratic colleagues, introduced an amendment to our Constitution which will restore our right to religious expression and liberty. Known as the Religious Freedom Amendment, the text of this simple and straightforward amendment reads: *To secure the people's right to acknowledge God according to the dictates or conscience: The people's right to pray and to recognize their religious beliefs, heritage or traditions on public property, including schools, shall not be infringed. The government shall not require any person to join in prayer or other religious activity, initiate or designate school prayers, discriminate against religion, or deny equal access to a benefit on account of religion.*

This amendment is necessary to protect the rights of Americans to engage in voluntary, student-initiated prayer in public schools and guards religious expression in public settings. In recent years, the constitutionally guaranteed rights of countless students, teachers, and public employees to express their religious beliefs and convictions have been infringed by administrators, job supervisors, and, often, by our courts. This amendment is no broader than necessary, and it doesn't impose on anybody any obligation.

Congressman Tom Campbell is a Republican Representing the San Jose Area